

SECRET
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10 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Multistage Parachute Development

1. Status:

The aim of subject development is to assure successful ejection escape on the ground at speeds as low as sixty-five knots as well as at maximum altitude and speed. Over the last eighteen months the following has been accomplished:

a. Establishment of reliability of deployment of the first stage chute up to [] and Mach 1.2. These tests were conducted in the supersonic wind tunnel at []

b. On the deck tests were conducted at [] at slow speeds. High speed track tests were made at Edwards Air Force Base California.

c. Environmental testing of new aneroid release devices at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

d. Dummy drop tests made at El Centro, California, to confirm the reliability of the over-all system. To date, twelve live jumps have been made up to sixteen thousand feet to prove the main chute recovery system. Two tests have been made with subject wearing the full pressure suit.

2. Problem Areas:

On several occasions the seat kit did not separate properly from the can when the release was activated. The contractor made several modifications and successful static tests were performed. Further testing will be done on future live jumps.

After vibration tests of the aneroid releases at Wright Patterson erratic firings were experienced. [] has modified the releases and the tests are now being repeated.

During dummy drops with a 60" diameter first stage chute excessive revolutions per minute were encountered. A 78" diameter chute is presently being tested in an effort to minimize this problem.

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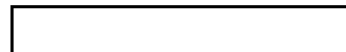
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3. Future Plans:

Upon completion of the on going dummy drops a live jump program will be conducted at altitudes from twenty through thirty-five thousand feet.

Another series of on the deck slow speed tests will be made at the Area.

High altitude ejection seat tests are planned from a modified F-106 a/c.



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Distribution:

- 1 - DD/R
- 2 - ACE/DPD
- 3 - EAO/DPD
- 4 - ASST CH/DPD
- 5 - C/DB/DPD
- 7 - SA/TA/DPD
- 8 - DB/DPD
- 9 - RI/DPD
- 10 - DB/Chrono



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